

Hawaii Marine

‘Lethal Breeze’ hits MCB Hawaii



Cpl. Reece Lodder | Hawaii Marine

Members of Aircraft Rescue Firefighting and the Provost Marshal's Office escort a simulated casualty to medical care on the flight line during Exercise Lethal Breeze, Thursday. Base personnel and local emergency services worked together to perform crisis response following a simulated mass casualty incident and an aircraft mishap, testing their communication, command and control, and rescue and mass casualty measures. The annual, one-day exercise was designed to further prepare the base for response to potential incidents at the upcoming Kaneohe Bay Air Show, Sept. 29-30.

Female Marine joins ‘Kings of Battle’

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

This year, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, a traditionally all-male unit, welcomed its first two female Marines.

Staff Sgt. Rosemarie Cruz, formerly of Headquarters Battalion, joined 1st Bn., 12th Marines a few months ago, and as of this week, a second female Marine, Staff Sgt. Rubi Soto, has joined the supply section.

Cruz is currently the data chief for Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marines, and trains, supervises and mentors eight Marines in the communications department. She has also taken on additional duties not within the scope of her

normal data tasks.

Sgt. Maj. Paul T. Davis, the battalion sergeant major, said there are no females taking on artillery positions with the unit at this time.

Although having females in the unit is new, it hasn't required much adjustment.

"Cruz is performing the same job as she would in any other unit," Davis said. "She's a welcome addition to 1/12."

A native of Gary, Ind., Cruz has been in the Marine Corps for more than 17 years, and enlisted in the Corps because she desired a new, challenging experience.

"I'd always heard that the Marine Corps re-

See *MARINE*, A-8



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Holly Petraeus, head of the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, chats with colleagues and members of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii community at Anderson Hall Dining Facility during her visit, Wednesday. Petraeus has visited more than 30 military installations this year, collecting feedback from service members about financial issues they and their families are facing.

Holly Petraeus visits Marine Corps Base Hawaii, discusses finance

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii community had the opportunity to bring financial questions and concerns to Holly Petraeus, head of the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, during a townhall meeting at the base chapel, Wednesday.

The spouse of CIA director and former Army Gen. David Petraeus, Holly Petraeus has visited more than 30 military installations this year, gathering feedback and introducing

See *PETRAEUS*, A-8



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Staff Sgt. Rosemarie Cruz, data chief, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, is the first of two females currently assigned to the unit. Cruz is just one of numerous female Marines being introduced into traditionally all-male units as part of recent guidance by Marine Corps senior leadership.



Gridiron madness!
HQBN Warriors defeat 3rd Marine Regiment, **B-1**



Aloha on ice!
Sweet treats at the House of Pure Aloha, **C-1**

Saturday
High 83
Low 72

Sunday
High 83
Low 74

NEWS BRIEFS

Anderson Hall Dining Facility September birthday meal menu today

Anderson Hall Dining Facility will be hosting a birthday lunch for all Marines and sailors who will be celebrating their birthday in the month of September. A special seating area and menu will be available. Please show your identification card at the front desk to receive your ticket. Standard meal rates apply. This event will take place today from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 257-1312.

Building 5082 closes early today

Offices in Building 5082 will be closing at 1 p.m. today for maintenance. Building 5082 houses the Children, Youth and Teen Program’s Administrative Offices, Family Child Care Office, and the Information and Referral Office. For more information, call CYTP at 257-7430.

Base Chapel seeks singers on Sundays

The Base Chapel Command Religious Program is looking for volunteers to sing Sundays from 8 to 9 a.m. during the Protestant Holy Communion Service (with a one-hour rehearsal during the week). We have a praise leader and a musician, we just need you. If you’re interested, please contact Chaplain Bob Crabb at 257-2734 or robert.crabb@usmc.mil.

New child care waitlist pilot program

The Department of Defense has implemented a new online waitlist registration pilot program called Military Child and Youth First for families on a child care waitlist and for any family planning to enroll in child care. To register your child for any military-operated child care option, visit <http://www.mcyfirst.com>. This online waitlist does not take the place of the enrollment process, but will allow parents an opportunity to submit child care requests before moving on to their next duty location. Visit <http://www.mccshawaii.com>. For details, contact the CYTP Resource and Referral Office at 257-7240/7430 or call the MCY First toll-free hotline at 1-855-696-2934.

Joint Spouses’ Conference 2012

Online registration for Joint Spouses’ Conference 2012 opens today at 8 a.m. The annual conference is open to spouses of active duty, reserve, and retired military members of all services. Spouses can register for up to four of the workshops offered this year. Be sure to visit the “workshops” page of the JSC website before registration to have your choices ready. Meals are included in the day’s activities. There are also opportunities to join a committee or volunteer. To volunteer for the conference, email director@jschawaii.com. For details, visit <http://www.jschawaii.com/> or JSC on Facebook.

‘Live Your Life Well: Stress and Mental Wellness’ presentation

In support of Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 9-15), Marya Grambs, executive director for Mental Health America of Hawaii, will discuss 10 steps on how to reduce stress. This is a senior enlisted forum scheduled for Sept. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Legare Room; the Officers’ Club. For more information, contact Behavioral Health at 257-7787.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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HOG FOR A DEVIL DOG



Nancy O’Nell | Defense Commissary Agency - West & Pacific Areas

Bob Schneller (left) and Dean Purcell, executives with Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, look on as Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anthony John Kokesh, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense officer assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, shouts for joy while sitting on the Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster he won in a contest sponsored by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Aug. 23. Kokesh entered the contest at the Schofield Barracks Commissary and was one of four finalists — one from each commissary in Hawaii — who drew motorcycle keys at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in Honolulu. The key Kokesh drew started the engine. The three other finalists won 32” high-definition TVs.

Low-key Marine finds structure

Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Sgt. Lionel J. Flores III is laid back. In contrast to the many more extroverted personalities who walk the halls of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific headquarters building, his greeting could range from a silent nod to a short, quiet “good morning.”

But his easy-going attitude shouldn’t be confused with a lack of motivation for his job or the tasks at hand. He currently works as the maintenance management chief for the logistics section at Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac. “[I am the] middle man,” Flores said. “Every mechanic or technician coordinates with me. There are rules set forth by the maintenance management chief about calibration, modifications, how to conduct maintenance management business ... my job is to keep everyone on track.”

Since being assigned to MarForPac, he has received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for leading his section through a spotless inspector-general’s inspection.

Along with a strong work ethic, his zen-like approach to life and willingness to give has led to success beyond his military career. He was recently recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii for his contributions in community service while working with local school children.

Despite these latest accolades, Flores will be the first to admit that his focus hasn’t always been channeled in the right direction.

Because his parents constantly moved from one side of town to the other, his mother helped him rent an apartment near his school when he was only 16 years old.

“Reality hadn’t set in at all,” Flores said. “I was living on my own already, working part time as a tax



Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Sgt. Lionel J. Flores III shakes hands with Col. Brent S. Willson, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, after being awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, July 2. Flores received the award for leading his section through an inspector general’s inspection with no discrepancies.

preparer at the beginning and end of the year, and picking up shifts at (the grocery store).”

Flores decided he didn’t want to have his mother worry about paying his rent, so he began working more hours. School hit the back burner. Eventually friends started to move in and his life became centered around parties, fun and earning money.

Flores failed his junior year of high school, which was his wake-up call. After making some adjustments, Flores was on his way toward graduation, and saw joining the military as his next big step.

He originally planned to enlist in the Air Force, but due to peer pressure from friends who were joining the Marine Corps, as well as the tenacity of a Marine recruiter, Flores eventually found himself on his way to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

While boot camp was a complete culture shock to Flores, it was at the rifle range where he found his niche.

It happened early one morning, rifle in hand, as Flores repeated

weapons safety rules with all of the other recruits.

With the slow and steady squeeze of a trigger on a loaded weapon, Flores’ life changed forever.

“That was the most nerve-wracked I’d ever felt,” said Flores. “I had never held a pistol or a gun. I had more responsibility than I thought I would ever have. I kind of pulled it together.”

Flores said that at that moment, he felt like he was becoming a man. He was learning to use a weapon the right way.

After 15 rifle and pistol expert shooting awards combined and deployments to Iraq, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia, every evolution has pulled from his ability to accept each new day’s challenge and focus on the things that need immediate attention.

Today, Flores continues to tackle obstacles while attending recruiting school and faithfully serving the organization he believes helped him become a man. Day by day, he quietly chooses to continue the career that drastically changed the course of his life.

PMO hosting canine registration event

Report compiled by Provost Marshal’s Office

On Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Provost Marshal’s Office is scheduled to hold a basewide canine registration initiative at Building 1096.

The event’s purpose is “for awareness, education and compliance,” according to Lt. Lambert Ohia, a civilian military police officer and special operations officer with PMO.

All residents of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, to include Camp H.M. Smith and the Manana Housing Area, are required to register owned canines with PMO to be in compliance with base and housing regulations.

By registering their dog, residents will be in compliance with the base orders, and can help PMO “assist with locating and returning their dog back to their rightful owner,” Ohia said. There is no charge to register a dog on base. Residents who are

either registering late or did not register their dog previously will not be penalized if they register at this event.

If the canine has already been registered with the City and County of Honolulu, but has not been registered with the base, residents only need to bring the registration paperwork. The canine doesn’t need to be present.

Upon verifying and approving a resident’s paperwork, PMO personnel will transcribe information from the City and County of Honolulu paperwork to the base required paperwork. After finishing the registration process, each resident will be given information regarding renewal and base regulations regarding registration.

If a resident has a canine that hasn’t been registered with the City and County of Honolulu, PMO will still be able to register the canine for the base only. The staff will have to inspect the canine and any other paperwork

associated with the canine. The resident will also have to register their dog separately with the state, for a small fee.

If the city and county paperwork lists the canine as a “mix” (i.e. lab-mix, terrier-mix, etc.) the canine needs to be present during the registration process. Residents must ensure the canine is either leashed or caged.

If the canine’s breed is in question or is a restricted breed aboard the installation, PMO personnel will take appropriate action under command of the Game Warden’s Office.

After the information is recorded the resident is finished with the registration process and is given information regarding registering the canine with the City and County of Honolulu, renewal registration information, and the base regulations regarding registration.

Contact the Game Warden’s Office at 257-1821 for more information.

AROUND THE CORPS

Following the scent

An explosive detector dog, his handler protect Marines

Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter
Regimental Combat Team 6

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Riding in an armored truck over Afghanistan's rutted dirt roads is scarcely a smooth or comfortable experience.

Each bump is felt as leaf springs groan and creak under the weight of the mine resistant, ambush-protected vehicle.

The air conditioner circulates dusty air, and unless you're right next to the vents, you're drenched in sweat. Body armor weighs down on shoulders and compounds the pain of sitting in one spot for hours on end.

For Lance Cpl. Stephen Mader and his dog Maxx, this experience is routine. Mader is an improvised explosive device detector dog handler with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6.

Their MRAP hits a large bump. Water in a metal dish near the truck's back entrance splashes onto the floor. Maxx, who was dozing, stands up, puts his front paws on Mader's lap and nuzzles his head against Mader's body armor.

Mader wraps his arms around Maxx, gives him a pat on the side, a scratch behind the ears and reassures him everything is alright.

Maxx, settles back down, his chin across Mader's boots, his spot, and closes his eyes again.

"It's basically like having a 3-year-old in Afghanistan," Mader, who is responsible for every aspect of Maxx's care, said. He feeds him, cleans him and even monitors Maxx's behavior for signs of stress or fatigue.

And like a 3-year-old, Maxx, a yellow Labrador, always wants attention.

"Otherwise, he'll start licking me," Mader said.

Mader and Maxx have been together for seven months since they met at the

five-week IDD handler school in Southern Pines, S.C. The dogs come to the school pre-trained to obey commands and track explosive scents. Human students go to learn how to handle the dogs.

School instructors interviewed Mader about his demeanor and personality and asked questions like, "Are you laid back or a hard-charger?" to get an idea of which dog to assign him (Mader said he's a mix of both).

Mader, who joined the Marine Corps in 2009, said the dog needs a good rapport with their handler. If there is a personality clash, the dog won't perform. Maxx is a perfect match, he said.

"If I want to be playful and active, he will be. But, if I want to relax, he'll lay down next to me," Mader said.

Overall, Maxx, who is actually 4 years old, is "pretty chill," and will sleep when he's not working, Mader said.

But, Maxx does have his wild streaks like when he breaks out of his kennel. He also likes to try to swim in the canals in the southern Helmand River Valley where the battalion's personal security detail often travels.

"He'll try, and I'll have to stop him," said Mader.

Unlike some military working dogs, IDD's are not trained to be aggressive. Because of this, IDD handlers have the discretion to allow other Marines to approach or pet their dogs.

Maxx is popular with the Marines and gets a lot of attention. But, when it comes time to work, he's ready to go.

"In the truck, he's like a pet, but whenever we're out there, he's like a tool," said Mader. And, "they're a great tool to have if you use them correctly."

The duo spends a lot of time on the road. Maxx can sense where they are.

"It's weird, but he'll know what (forward operating base) we're going to," said Mader.

When they're getting close to FOB



Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter | Regimental Combat Team 6
Maxx, an improvised explosive device detector dog, licks the face of his handler, Lance Cpl. Stephen Mader, an IDD handler assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, during a convoy in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 26, 2012.

Geronimo, a larger, more built-up base, Maxx will get excited and start pacing. When they approach a smaller, more desolate place like Combat Outpost Rankle, "he'll just lay there."

When Mader and Maxx aren't on the road or working, they're training. After missions, while other Marines are relaxing, Mader is making sure Maxx's tracking skills stay sharp.

Maxx isn't trained with food, rather, with a rubber bouncy toy called a "bumper." The bumper is used as a reward for performing a task successfully either in training or a real scenario. When the bumper comes out, it's a morale boost for the dog, Mader said.

Even with the long hours and the extra responsibilities of being a dog handler, Mader said it's "the best thing to happen to me in the Marine Corps."

After this deployment, if there is a need and an opportunity, Mader said he would volunteer to be a handler again.

"I love being with the dogs," he said.

As the Afghan National Army continues to take over more of the security

responsibilities in Helmand province, officials at Marine Corps Systems Command said they anticipate the number of dogs currently serving to be reduced in the near future, correlating with the reduction in Marine forces in the region.

If Maxx is no longer needed, Mader said he wants to adopt him.

"I don't want to give him up," Mader said. "I've bonded too much to give him up."

Mader looks down at Maxx, who is still asleep across Mader's boots, unaware of the potential dangers outside of their MRAP. The occasional hard bump in the road is the only thing that stirs him from his nap on this ride.

However, if needed, the pair will be ready to go on a moment's notice to track down the scent of any explosives on the route, potentially preventing vehicle damage, injuries or worse.

"A local kid asked if he could buy Maxx for 10 dollars," Mader recalled.

"I had to tell him he's worth a little bit more than that."

Illinois native bridges language, cultural barriers through Trek Nawa

Cpl. Timothy Lenzo
Regional Command Southwest

PATROL BASE DETROIT, Afghanistan — The Marines are down but not out. The late afternoon sun beats on them, and one Marine wipes sweat from his eyes.

Across from them, their opponents smile, seemingly sensing the outcome. With the Olympics fresh in their minds, this is not simply a volleyball game, this is a matter of national pride.

Then it happens, a questionable call. Is it a point for the Afghan National Army soldiers on one side of the net, or is it the Marines' serve? Hand gestures and facial expressions are not enough to explain the concerns of both teams.

Then a Marine steps in, turns to the Afghan soldier and begins pleading the Marines' case. The only catch is he is not speaking English and using over dramatic hand gestures like the others. He is speaking Pashtu, the ANA soldiers' native language.

The ability of Lance Cpl. Nathan Pontious, rifleman, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, to speak Pa-

shtu helps build relationships with ANA soldiers and local Afghans.

"It really helps when we are patrolling and we run into a family," Pontious said. "When they see I can speak their language it usually puts them at ease. We have that common ground, and we can build off it."

Pontious' platoon has two interpreters, but has three squads. This means when the entire platoon patrols, one squad is usually left without an interpreter.

"It's huge having someone like Pontious who's a Marine but can also speak Pashtu," said Sgt. Jason Lomeli, Pontious' squad leader.

"The other day we had to roll out, and the (platoon commander) asked if I was good without an (interpreter). I responded, 'Of course I'm good, I have Pontious.'"

Pontious' skills are often used to help mitigate potentially damaging relations with local Afghans. He often explains to the head of the household what the Marines are doing, why they are there and reassures the family.

He is a valued asset to his squad, but what Pontious re-

ally enjoys is the non-work related part of speaking Pashtu.

"I love talking to the children," said Pontious, from Effingham, Ill. "They are really funny, and I love giving them



Cpl. Timothy Lenzo | Regional Command Southwest
Lance Cpl. Nathan Pontious, rifleman, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, reads his Pashtu to English dictionary, Aug. 24.

water or candy and watching their smiles."

Even when his squad returns from patrols, Pontious' ability to bridge the language barrier is still put to good use. His platoon works closely with

ANA soldiers with 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps.

Pontious often talks to the Afghan soldiers, trading with them and planning Marine and ANA volleyball games.

"We work together like brothers," said ANA Capt. Aziz Mohammad, tolai commander, 3rd Tolai, 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps.

Pontious attended a three-month language school to learn Pashtu before deploying to Afghanistan. He attended grammar classes in the morning and cultural classes in the afternoon.

At the end, Pontious graduated third in a class of more than 200 students and the highest of any Marine in his battalion.

Before going to the school, Pontious had developed a reputation as a trouble-maker. He had gotten into a little trouble in the past, and he couldn't seem to shake the misconceptions about him.

"When I first arrived, some of the other leaders warned me about Pontious, saying he might cause issues," explained Lomeli, from Riverdale, Ill. "I think Pontious was misunderstood. He does everything I ask of him and more, and he's a

great asset to the squad."

Pontious used his poor reputation as motivation during the language schools. He volunteered to attend the class because he learned French easily in high school.

"Honestly, I had some doubters when I left for the course," Pontious said. "I wanted to prove them wrong, and I ended up getting an 'A' in the course."

He also keeps his language skills sharp, practicing with his school textbook he brought to Afghanistan and asking the interpreters questions.

"One ANA soldier gave me a Pashtu to English dictionary," Pontious said. "That helped a lot. I take it with me every time we go out."

Back on the volleyball court, Pontious finishes pleading his case. His explanation seems to satisfy his Afghan counterparts, at least for this point, and in moments the Marines and Afghans are playing again.

"I really think I'm helping to change the perception of Marines to the people of Afghanistan," Pontious said. "I think they see the effort I've put in to learn their language and their culture, and I think they appreciate it."

ALL
Terrain
Vehicle

Sgt. Aaron Hostutler | Defense Media Activity - Marines

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Bridgeport, Calif. — Sgt. Justin D. Head, animal packing course chief instructor, exercises his mustang, Hondo, shortly after grazing here, Aug. 21. The animal packing course is the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense and teaches Marines and other military personnel how to effectively and efficiently work with beasts of burden to transport munitions, supplies and wounded personnel to and from areas inaccessible to mechanized and air transportation. The course teaches an introduction to animal packing, anatomy of pack animals, animal packing and casualty evacuation techniques, and animal first aid and bivouac considerations.



(Above) Tim Treacy, a student of the Provost Marshal's Office Police Academy, cuffs a gunman during a training exercise inside the Modular Armored Tactical Combat House at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Wednesday.

(Left) Jody Smith and Tim Treacy, students of the PMO Police Academy, subdue a gunman during a training exercise inside the MATCH.

ENGAGING TARGETS!

Police academy students train, prepare for graduation

Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

A team of four law enforcement agents stack up alongside a tall, concrete and steel house. The point man prepares to kick open the building entrance and sweep through the narrow hallways. The only knowledge they have of the situation is that an unknown number of potentially armed enemy personnel are inside the house.

The unknown became obvious when gunshots were heard from inside. The team is at a severe disadvantage against an enemy hidden in several dark rooms who can ambush from tight corners. Barely through the doorway, the team is met with 'pop, pop, pop!'

Students of the Provost Marshal's Office Police Academy engaged enemy gunmen using simulated rounds during a training exercise at the Modular

Armored Tactical Combat House, or MATCH, on the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Wednesday.

The students are nearing the end of their 12-week training cycle to become civilian police officers for PMO. During the training they covered several topics ranging from ethics, physical fitness and nutrition, communication skills, constitutional law, the justice system, courtroom testimony, search and seizure, first aid, use of force, firearms, traffic management and civil disturbance.

Before the final practical application tests, the students applied what they learned during the past 11 weeks of training by clearing the MATCH of armed hostiles. The 15 students were broken up into four relays before starting dry runs to gain a feel for the evaluation. The premise was to use both firearm and room clearing skills while communicating and covering each other's

back.

"Everything they learned throughout the academy will be tested in the next few days," said Charles Smith, the academy's lead instructor. "During this exercise, they'll have to rely on people they essentially don't know during an active shooter situation."

After completing the rehearsal, students donned eye and neck protection, and received airsoft pistols with pellets. The first two relays went through the house with little trouble, quickly finding and suppressing all threats.

When the third relay breached the doorway, one of the team members was shot twice in the stomach — a simulated kill.

"Hands up!" shouted one of the team members, but the combatant ran down the hallway and took cover around a corner leading to a staircase.

"Stack on me — room's clear — friendlies coming

out!" shouted the pointman.

The three students moved toward the doorway that led to the staircase but were met with the resounding crack of gunfire. The gunman took a position around the corner and started shooting fanatically. Pellets ricocheted off the wall and hit a student in the hand. They returned fire but the gunman fled up the staircase into another room.

The students regrouped and aggressively, but cautiously, pursued. Finally, the pointman of the team moved in front of the doorway and shot the gunman in the abdomen.

"You shot me, I can't move!" screamed the gunman, in agonizing pain.

"Who's in the room with you?!" shouted the pointman before entering.

"No one but the Red Army!" responded the gunman

sarcastically.

The students cleared the room, subdued the gunman and continued clearing the remaining rooms. One remained behind to dispatch medical assistance. Afterward, the four students had an after-action discussion with Smith to explore the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"This training is as close to the real thing and it puts all that we learned into one event," said student Freddy Williams. "During my time at the academy, I learned a

lot about the premise of police operations and it really explained why police officers do things a certain way — for safety. In the house, I felt a lot of adrenaline and I was nervous to get shot. But that fear is a part of the training and you need to push through it. Hopefully, I'll never be in a situation like that, but if I am, I'll go into it more confidently."

The class completed the rest of its practical application testing this week and successfully graduated in a ceremony at the base chapel, Wednesday.



A team of students from the PMO Police Academy prepare to enter the MATCH and engage targets with simulated rounds during a training exercise at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility.



A team of students from the PMO Police Academy halt before entering a doorway during a training exercise inside the MATCH at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Wednesday.



Tim Treacy and Jody Smith, students of the PMO Police Academy, cover each other as they advance up a staircase in pursuit of a gunman during a training exercise inside the MATCH at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Wednesday.

MAG-24 AWARDS OLD, RECEIVES NEW SERGEANT MAJOR

Sgt. Maj. Christopher G. Robinson (right), outgoing sergeant major, Marine Aircraft Group 24, receives a certificate accompanying his Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Paul A. Fortunato (center), commanding officer, MAG-24, during a relief and appointment ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Aug. 30. Sgt. Maj. Ronald Halcovich (left), previously the sergeant major of 3rd Radio Battalion, relieved Robinson as the new sergeant major of MAG-24. Robinson is slated to be the new sergeant major of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Havelock, N.C.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

TRICARE Online Streamlines Access with Latest Release

On August 17, 2012, the Defense Health Services Systems Program Executive Office, in partnership with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), successfully deployed the latest TRICARE Online (TOL) release.

On August 17, 2012, the Defense Health Services Systems Program Executive Office, in partnership with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), successfully deployed the latest TRICARE Online (TOL) release. The improvement reduces TOL access from six steps to two and eliminates the unique 15 digit password and registration requirements.

Users can now access TOL using any of the following account types:

- (1) Department of Defense (DoD) Common Access Card (CAC)
- (2) Basic or Premium DoD Self-Service Logon (DS Logon)
- (3) Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) myPay

For more information regarding TOL accounts and log in, please go to “Accounts and Log in Brochure” at the link below:

http://www.health.mil/MHSCIO/programs_products/DHSS/DHSS-Products/TOL.aspx

Hawaii’s Energy Smart Initiative Already Generating Energy Savings for Forest City Residents

Military housing community collaborates with Hawaii Energy to help residents conserve electricity

ENERGY CORNER

Compiled by Hawaii Energy and Forest City

HONOLULU — On May 29, 2012, Hawaii residents joined Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz, Marine Col. Brian P. Annichiarico, Navy Capt. Jeffrey W. James, Forest City Military Communities and Hawaii Energy, the energy efficiency and conservation program for Hawaii, Honolulu and Maui counties, as they launched Hawaii’s Energy Smart Initiative. Through the Energy Smart Initiative, Hawaii Energy and Forest City expect to achieve a 1.3 million kilowatt hour (kWh) energy reduction per year.

The Energy Smart Initiative has already played a significant role in helping Forest City’s Navy and Marine housing to reduce overall electricity use by 674,956 kWh, as compared to the same two-month period last year (June and July). Forest City Military Communities reduced its electricity use, on average, by 58 kWh per occupied housing unit each month in June and July. The 674,956 kWh reduction is equal to

approximately \$147,125 in savings.

“The Energy Smart Initiative represents one of the first large-scale efforts on Oahu to transform an entire residential community to achieve an energy-efficient lifestyle,” said Hawaii Energy Program Manager Ray Starling. “I applaud each and every Forest City employee and resident for helping to make this initiative a success from the very start. In addition, I encourage all electric utility customers in the three counties – whether a part of this initiative or not – to actively battle high electricity bills by taking advantage of numerous rebates and low-cost conservation ideas that Hawaii Energy offers.”

With Hawaii families paying the highest electricity rates in the nation, Forest City residents are contributing to significant energy and financial savings and are helping the State of Hawaii to achieve its clean energy goals. The Energy Smart Initiative is also in alignment with the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy’s energy conservation initiatives to reduce dependence on imported oil and other fossil fuels.

“I encourage every Forest City household to participate in the Energy Smart Initiative,” added Forest City Vice President Will Boudra. “By helping to build energy smart communities, Forest City residents can save money and aid in the energy security of our state and our nation.”

Forest City Military Communities, in partnership with the Department of the Navy, manages, maintains and revitalizes neighborhoods on and around military bases in Hawaii, including Pearl Harbor, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe and neighboring installations. With over 36 neighborhoods, and 6,700 homes under management, Forest City is dedicated to the singular vision of enhancing the quality of life for military families through superior homes and welcoming neighborhoods.

For more information about the Energy Smart Initiative, Forest City or Hawaii Energy, please visit HawaiiEnergy.com/ForestCity.



Food Fuels Field Fire

Sgt. D.R. Cotton
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Days, weeks and months of field time may seem challenging as time blurs together in a continual fog that only changes its tint and thickness, but never seems to clear.

A Marine can lose track of time as the tunnel of the mission’s focus dominates every day through every night for the duration. Morale is not something taken lightly because there is little liberation from stressful field conditions meant to challenge the mind, body and spirit of a Marine. Anything from which morale can be generated is a blessing, and no Marine blessing is as continuous as chow in the field.

The root of any blessing can be taken for granted. Chow takes a mission commitment of other Marines to bring that brief respite from the fog to those in the field. The food services Marines of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, displayed their hunger for mission accomplishment here at Spartan Fury 12.2, Aug. 24.

A Marine working party began the routine by stripping pallets of their consumables and separating them for cooking or distribution.

“One pallet makes 400 portions,” said Sgt. Damian Rodriguez, the 1/12 mess chief. “Portion control is a big part of what we do. We have to manage the right amount of chow so we don’t use too much and each Marine gets the right amount.”

Once everything is prepared and ready for processing, the items that require it are heated or cooked in the kitchen. On short operations like Spartan Fury, however, most food only requires heating.

“That’s the brazier,” said Cpl. Thanhphong Vu, chief cook with 1/12. “It uses boiling water to heat the rations ... and it can also be used to fry things when we get fresh food.”

Once heated, the hot food is put in “cambros,” insulated green containers that latch for secure travel, Rodriguez said. “Marines want hot chow. It builds



Sgt. D.R. Cotton | Hawaii Marine

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Pfc. Paul Steimle, a Marine with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, serves spaghetti and meatballs to Navy Lt. Rick Williams, the 1/12 chaplain, during the Spartan Fury 12.2 training evolution, Aug. 24. Each utensil Marines use to serve chow aids in keeping meal portions at the correct level for accountability and operational sustainment.

morale.”

The concerns of the food service Marines remain even when the chow is slid into the back of a 7-ton or onto a Marine’s tray at the chow hall. Whether they are forward deployed or training domestically, these Marines are in a constant battle — germs.

“Our motto is ‘clean as you go,’” Rodriguez said. “We are big on sanitation, the same here as we would in Afghanistan. The last thing you want is someone getting sick, so we wash our hands a lot and are constantly cleaning.”

The appearance of the kitchen where the food is prepared is literally “clean

enough to eat off of.” Then there is still the trademark Marine Corps accountability. From the ordering process to the first mouthful of chow a Marine gets before starting his next training evolution, accountability is made throughout the chow process.

“We have keep our paperwork straight,” Rodriguez said. “We coordinate with units to make sure right the right chow is in the right place. If a unit comes back from the field early, we have to account for it.”

In some cases, Marines from food services may have to go to the training site themselves to make sure portions are correct.

“If we have a problem with rations in the field, we send a cook to make sure it’s done properly,” Rodriguez said. “We give a brief on portions because we have a set amount calculated. Each utensil is designed to help measure the portions.”

As each unit’s Marines and sailors take a break to down some chow, the discussion starts to shift away from the urgencies of a mortal craft.

Food brings people together to have a more civil type of conversation that brings Marines positive note. Whether it’s jokes, shop talk or personal conversations, these discussions are all talk about the chow.

